

One phrase he took to heart and would often repeat was, "I might not be the smartest guy in the room, but I work harder than anyone in the room," said Glenn Monroe, a family friend turned colleague at First State in Denton. He was a fan of 6 a.m. meetings and didn't like doing check-ins with employees on a regular basis. A lot of times, Ball was also the smartest man in the room, Monroe said.

"You won't meet too many bankers at the executive level who are willing to make decisions and live with them," Monroe said. "He was willing to listen to all of the information, listen to your input, and he'd make a decision. That would be it. If the decision wasn't the greatest one, he never came back on anyone else."

A main reason Ball was able to build capital at First State was through acquiring smaller community banks in the area, then helping make them more profitable. By the time he left in the late 1990s, the bank had more than quadrupled its assets.

From there, he went on to invest and lead Smart Start, a company that creates alcohol detection technology for cars, and invested in other companies.

He worked a lot of late nights, his children said, but he made sure he could always coach a sports team for one of five children and never missed a game, Bertorelli said. He also loved the phrase "Heck of a deal" whenever one of his kids came to him with a tale of success.

Later in life, he continued that dedication to family with his 11 grandchildren. Each photo of him with one of grandchildren reveals a large, toothy grin with Ball's ears sticking out, his son, David Ball, said.

"His legacy was a big deal to him," David Ball said. "His legacy was not the material things he gained; his legacy was his children and grandchildren, and he made sure we knew that."

Ball is survived by his wife, Barbara Ball, his five children, a stepchild and 11 grandchildren. Visitation will be from 6 to 8 p.m. Wednesday at Bill DeBerry Funeral Directors, 2025 W. University Drive.

Funeral service will be at 11 a.m. Thursday at St. Andrew Presbyterian Church, 300 W. Oak St. in Denton.

SELENA MARTINEZ

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 7, 2017

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Selena Martinez for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award.

Selena Martinez is a student at Arvada K-8 School and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Selena Martinez is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Selena Martinez for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of her future accomplishments.

RECOGNIZING MEGAFEST, THE NATION'S LARGEST FAITH, FILM, AND FAMILY MULTIDAY EXPERIENCE

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 7, 2017

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize MegaFest which returns to Dallas this summer—June 28 through July 1. MegaFest has been built into the nation's largest celebration of life-changing events and empowering seminars focused on faith, inspiration, music, entertainment, youth and fun for the entire family, and praise for this event's success belongs to visionary leader Bishop T.D. Jakes.

MegaFest has captivated diverse audiences in Atlanta, GA; Dallas, TX; and Johannesburg, South Africa, since 2004. In 2015, over 90,000 attendees from around the world called Dallas "home." With an expected attendance of over 100,000, support from the business community and key sponsors has helped Bishop Jakes, MegaFest, and the City of Dallas reach larger audiences and offer quality programs and entertainment.

A major theme of the event is based on the "Conversations with America" survey conducted by Bishop Jakes. The survey gauged America's thoughts, concerns, and views on today's most pressing issues, including gender equality, criminal justice reform, economic reform, and national security.

This year's results show a significant and consistent gap between men and women's views toward the current state of gender inequality across America. Equality for all is a central pillar of our democracy, and women, no matter their ethnicity, religious orientation, or socioeconomic status in the United States, should be treated as equals in all aspects of our society.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate Bishop Jakes on creating such a wonderful and progressive event. I wish MegaFest, and similar events, future success in uniting families and individuals from all over the world in the name of love, growth, and equality.

RECOGNIZING THE LIFE OF FALLEN MISSISSIPPI ARMY NATIONAL GUARD SERGEANT (SGT) KYLE CLAYTON THOMAS

HON. TRENT KELLY

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 7, 2017

Mr. KELLY of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in memory of Mississippi Army National Guard Sergeant (SGT) Kyle Clayton Thomas who paid the ultimate sacrifice while training to defend our great nation on May 29, 2017, at the National Training Center (NTC) at Fort Irwin, California. SGT Thomas died in a rollover accident while he and three other soldiers were conducting combat maneuver operations in a M1A2 SEPv2 Abrams Main Battle Tank. The soldiers with him were treated and released from Loma Linda University Medical Center in Loma Linda, California.

SGT Thomas, an Amory native and 2011 Amory High School graduate, was assigned to Company A, 2nd Battalion 198th Armored, 155th Armored Brigade headquartered in Tupelo, Mississippi.

SGT Thomas joined the Mississippi Army National Guard in 2012. His mother, Jo Ann Boussouar, says her son was always interested in the military. As a young boy, SGT Thomas would say that he wanted to be a tank driver. Her son was able to fulfill his dream to serve in the military, and she is proud of his willingness to sacrifice his life for the safety of his family.

"Kyle has a tattoo that said, 'For those I love, I will sacrifice,'" she said. "That's what he did."

SGT Thomas divided his time between his assembly job at NauticStar Boats manufacturing plant in Amory and the Mississippi Army National Guard. SGT Thomas's obituary describes him as a compassionate person who loved life and spending time with his family. It says when his daughter, Devina Jayde Smith, was born, an incredible bond was formed. SGT Thomas's father, Eddie Thomas, says the whole family is proud of SGT Thomas's commitment to his family and to the defense of our nation.

"I was very proud," Mr. Thomas said. "His service made me feel wonderful."

In a statement issued by the Department of the Army and Air Force, Colonel (COL) Doug Ferguson, Commander of the Tupelo-based 155th Armored Brigade Combat Team, expressed his sympathy over the loss of SGT Thomas.

"Our deepest sympathies go out to SGT Thomas's family and friends," said COL Ferguson. "We have lost a valuable member of our team and this loss will be felt across the brigade."

SGT Thomas's awards include the Meritorious Service Medal, Army Achievement Medal, Army Good Conduct Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Armed Forces Service Medal, Army Service Ribbon, Army Reserve Component Achievement Medal, Mississippi Magnolia Cross, Mississippi Emergency Service Medal, Mississippi Longevity Medal, and the Mississippi War Medal.

SGT Thomas died on Memorial Day—the day our nation sets aside to honor the service men and women who fought and died to protect the freedoms we all enjoy. We cannot forget what this national holiday means to families who have experienced that loss.

SGT Thomas is survived by a daughter, Devina Smith; parents, Eddie Thomas (Sheryl) and Jo Ann Boussouar (Hachemi); sisters, Joni Edmonson (David), Tiffany Jones; Chrystal Parker (Marty), and Jennifer Sloan (Robin); grandparents, Jackie Ann Wallace and Marvelle Jean Tartt; aunts, Janette West (Dan), Karen Wallace; uncles, Billy and Bobby Wallace; cousins, Danette Starks (William) and Allison Fair (Chris); nieces and nephews, Annalee Thomas, Alexis Jones, Olivia and Riley Edmonson, Dustin Parker (Brooke), Jake Sloan (Chastity), Lauren Sloan; special friends, Chandler Riggs, Bradley Riggs, Ryan Hill, Jessica Smith (mother of Devina), Hannah Zaragosa, and Courtlyn McCollum.